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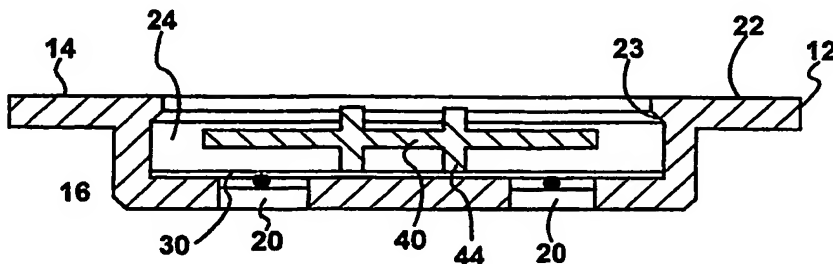
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(54) Title: **PACKAGING RELEASE VALVE FOR MICROWAVABLE FOOD ITEMS**



(57) Abstract: A valve assembly is provided for venting pressurized gases generated from within an enclosed package during a heating of the package. The valve assembly has a membrane element (30), a tubular body (12), and a retaining member (40). The tubular body (12) has a recess (24) defined therebetween. The tubular body (12) has an aperture (20) for venting the pressurized

gasses therethrough. The recess (24) is operative to receive and support the membrane element (20). The restraining member (40) is operative for snap engagement with the tubular body (12) at a rim (23) for retaining the membrane element (30) within the recess (24).

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